

studies *rrencn* *ana*
 have reached a less despairing view both of
 life and love.
 Had he been able to climb Alps with a
 different Albertine
 instead of ruminating on reality in the
 lounges of Grand-
 Hotels, he might have discovered that
 mountains have
 beauties and beatitudes, not wholly
 Philistine, of their
 own; and that the cure for tormenting
 thoughts about
 existence may be found in other more
 pressing thoughts
 of how to reach food and shelter, which are
 easier to bring
 to a happy conclusion. Since happiness
 consists in healthy
 activity which satisfies one's wants, it is
 surely well to
 provide oneself, periodically, with wants that
 are possible
 and healthy to satisfy. I have sinned against
 my brother,
 the Ass/ said St. Francis on his death-bed;
 meaning that
 he had treated his body too ill. It is still on
 our brother,
 the Ass, that we most depend to ride into
 the Jerusalem
 of earthly content. And it is the part of
 the poet, in
 the words of Yeats, 'to stand like St. Michael
 with the
 trumpet that calls the body to resurrection'.
 For, again,
 'though it is charming to have an
 affectionate feeling
 about flowers, that will not pull the cart out
 of the ditch*.
 Perhaps there is something a little Teutonic,
 or Judaic,
 in the melancholy metaphysics of Proust—as
 there is a
 German heaviness about many of his
 sentences, especially
 when philosophy breaks in; so that they
 stagger to their
 close, groaning beneath their burden of
 provisoes and

qualifications and alternatives, until one is reminded of a speech in Thucydides. It is not for a foreigner to dogmatise about French style; but I find it hard to believe that it would not be possible to better a sentence such as—* "C'est impossible ...", dit le docteur *qui*, comme les gens *qui* travaillent beaucoup et croient retenir beaucoup de choses 4«ils se figurent être utiles, en oublient beaucoup d'autres, ce *qui* leur permet de s'extasier devant la m&noire de gens *qui* n'ont rien à faire/. How different from Anatole